GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4834
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN GUJARAT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Minorities (NCM) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent their delegation to Gujarat to inquire into the recent incidents of communal riots;

(b) if so, the findings of the delegation;

(c) the number of persons died/injured in such incidents;

(d) whether NCM has asked for certain information from the State Government of Gujarat;

(e) if so, whether the said information has been received by NCM;

(f) the number of mosques and Dargah demolished by State Authorities in the State; and

(g) the details of recommendations made by NCM and NHRC in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): As per information received from the State Government a total of six persons died and 51 persons were injured in the recent communal incidents in Vadodara.

(d) & (e): The NCM has informed that a letter was issued by the Commission on 1.5.2006 to the Government of Gujarat calling for a report on the demolition of the historic Dargah and that no reply from the State Government has been received by the Commission in response thereto.

(f) The State Government has informed that six Dargah/Mazar were removed by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation during the period April, 2005 to April, 2006.

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(g): The National Commission for Minorities, issued a Press Note dated 1.5.2006 mentioning the following :-

(i) The Commission had urged the Government of Gujarat in the night of 30.4.2006 to verify the claim of the community leaders that the Dargah included in the demolition drive, was a three hundred years old structure and figured in the record relating to the Vadodara city;

(ii) the State Government was also requested to ascertain if there were any `encroachments` of recent origin at the site. This does not appear to have been done;

(iii) the State Government was urged to conduct a judicial enquiry into the matter to ascertain if police firing was unavoidable in this case and if the classification of the Dargah as an encroachment was correctly done.

The NHRC have not made any recommendations to the State Government in this regard.